

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 7, 2014

Agenda Item: Elk Management in Areas with Brucellosis 2015 Work Plan

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

Background

In January 2013, the Commission endorsed elk management recommendations from a citizen working group for application in areas with brucellosis (including the Designated Surveillance Area as described by the Montana Department of Livestock). The Commission also recognized the need for annual work plans based upon these recommendations. The annual work plans describe specific management actions available for implementation. The proposed 2015 annual work plan represents the third iteration of annual plans and it builds upon the 2013 and 2014 plans and the experience gained in their implementation. The proposed 2015 plan includes hazing, fencing, lethal removal of elk, habitat modifications and other efforts to adjust elk distribution to mitigate the risk of brucellosis transmission from elk to cattle. This proposal includes the potential for local work groups to propose modifications or additions to the 2015 plan at a later date with the Commission. A supplemental document contains the proposed 2015 annual plan and is available to the public from FWP.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public comment opportunity for any proposed adoption will run through 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8 with any final adoption scheduled for the Oct. 9 Commission meeting. Any final adoption would be available for implementation at that time.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends adoption of the proposed 2015 annual work plan. This plan reflects experience gained from 2013 and 2014 efforts as well as inputs from the statewide working group and the public.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed or with adjustment per staff justifications, public comment and/or Commission discussion.

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt the proposed 2015 annual work plan for elk management in areas with brucellosis as presented by FWP.